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COMMENTS OF CLIFFORD W. KOSTER
AT CALFED PUBLIC HEARING HELD *Los Banos*
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My name is Clifford W. Koster, a director of the Del Puerto Water District comprised of 45,000 acres between Tracy and Santa Nella. Del Puerto contracts for a CVP surface water supply with the Bureau of Reclamation. We recognize that the District has an unreliable long-term surface water supply and also that we are politically vulnerable to "water grabbers". Therefore, Del Puerto is in the market for water on a regular basis.

We are adamantly opposed to using our groundwater supply, which is stable at present, to contribute to the pool of "new water" that California needs. We oppose any exportation of our groundwater as well as the use of either our groundwater or surface water to support urbanization.

The Del Puerto believes that, in order to get some reliability and stability in our CVP water supply, an isolated canal in the Delta is needed. This facility would improve the migrating fish problem and other ESA mandates, which are the root cause of unreliability for CVP exports. The canal should be a minimum size of 5,000 cfs with outlets designed to enhance Delta water quality to address Delta politics.

Del Puerto greatly favors increasing water storage in the state, specifically in the Friant, Shasta and Auburn areas. Water storage in California is part of the state's infrastructure, just as necessary as highways, air and land. Everybody benefits from water storage and everybody should pay for it, just as providing a "common pool of water" in the Delta is to be financially supported by everybody.

The District is a leader in water conservation. Our Bureau approved Water Conservation Plan has been recognized as exemplary. The District has \$4 million in low-interest SRF money available for water conservation projects. Our farmers have installed high efficiency irrigation and tail water return systems to increase distribution uniformity and reduce surface water runoff. I would note that these systems do not use less water, they just use it more efficiently.

The Del Puerto Water District is allying with the recently formed San Joaquin Valley Drainage Authority to positively address surface water runoff to the San Joaquin River.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide these comments.

Clifford W. Koster
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President